craft maintenance facility in India, in collaboration with M/s Dynair Co. of USA. In addition, M/s Modi Rubber Ltd. has informed DGCA that they have signed a M.O.U. with M/s MTU GMBH of Germany to set up an Aero Engine Maintenance unit at Gwalior.

Opposition to privatisation of Airlines

4174. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Corporation Employees Union (A.C.E.U.) and Indian Aircraft Technicians Associationare opposing the "privatisation" of air services in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These unions have been protesting against the proposal of the Government for the repeal of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, restructuring of Air India/Indian Airlines and operation of air taxi services. These unions have taken part in strikes on various occasions to project their point of view.

(c) There is no proposal to "privatise" Air India and Indian Airlines and what is intended is only the restructuring of the airlines by forming two companies under the Companies Act, which will still be having majority shareholding of the Government.

Airlinking of some parts of Uttar Pradesh

4175. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some parts of Uttar Pradesh have not beetn connected through air so far;

(b) if so, what are the names of these areas, district-wise and steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen the air-services in Uttar Pradesh by providing additional flights to areas of heavy demand; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) to (d) Air services are presently available to Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi and Dehradun in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Due to capacity constraints and other operational and commercial reasons there is no proposal at present to augment the services.

Setting up of an Airport at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh

4176. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meerut is the only major Corporation city in Uttar Pradesh which is not linked by air; and

(b) whether Government had conducted any survey to build an airport at Meerut?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Decline in Tourist Traffic to metro cities

4177. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: SHRI JAGMOHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta are among the most polluted cities in the world, as a result of which international tourism bodies have advised the tourist to avoid these cities;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction, thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to keep up the tourist traffic in these cities?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV-RAO SCINDIA): (a) In a report of the World Health Organisation under the United Nations Environment Programme, Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta have been included in the list of cities polluted by sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates. However, the Government is not aware of any advices issued by the International bodies to tourists to avoid visiting these cities.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Direct Flight to South Africa by Air India

4178. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved a proposal permiting Air India to have direct link with South Africa; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHA-RAO SCINDIA) (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

Irregularities by Officials of I.T.D.C.

4179. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a Memorandum on the 19th August, 1992 from a Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha in connection with certain serious irregularities by senior officials of ITDC;

(b) whether the reported irregularities have since been got investigated by an outside agency after shifting the suspected officials from their key positions; and

(c) if so, what are the details of irregularities and the action taken by Government on the investigation report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV-RAO SCINDIA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On the basis of the Memorandum received from the Member of Parliament, a Prima facie case of committing irregularities by one of the ITDC's officers has been established. ITDC Management has initiated disciplinary action against the said officer.

Functioning of rapid exit taxi project at Bombay

4180. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rapid exit taxi project of the International Airport Authority of India at Bombay has failed to take off; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for non-implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV-RAO SCINDIA): (a) The rapid exit taxi track at Bombay was commissioned in November, 1991 and is in use.

(b) Does not arise.

Residential Accommodation of I.T.D.C. Executives

4181. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of such Hotel General Manager/Managers and other Executives of I.T.D.C. who have their own residential accommodation/House at the Station/Place of their posting, but the same is rented out and are occupying I.T.D.C. Hotel Rooms, Company Owned/Leased Flats/Houses, as their residential accommodation as on date; and

(b) what are the reasons for allowing the above stated I.T.D.C. officials to have their residence in ITDC Hotels, Company owned/leased houses, when majority of ITDC Executives have been allowed